

Details: FY2020 Aquaculture Supplemental

Context for these Supplemental Funds

Most programs are currently working through their FY2020-2021 biennial research RFP cycle (for a few, this is an annual announcement), culminating in the submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) detailing the portfolio of highly ranked proposals that your program recommends be supported to address your strategic priorities to your Program Officer. Once this LOI is approved by your Program Officer, you will prepare your proposal for funding those projects through the normal Omnibus process (Award Action Request) for the two-year funding cycle starting 1 February 2020.

Connecting Your Program's Broader RFP Funding to This Aquaculture Supplemental

Funding from the aquaculture supplement will be based on the approved LOI. You will be asked to work with your Program Officer to identify those selected research projects that have a strong focus on aquaculture. For most, these are expected to be projects fully-focused on aquaculture, although there may be some that, for example, have dual aquaculture and wild-catch fishery elements. All projects that are determined to have >50% focus on aquaculture will be used to determine the potential supplemental aquaculture funding for your program. The funding calculation will be based on the proportion of the selected project budgets dedicated to aquaculture. Note: It is not the intent for this supplemental funding to be used to fund your program's selected proposals.

As noted previously, the NSGO has targeted this supplemental investment to be awarded at a level up to 50% of each program's Omnibus RFP commitment in aquaculture for the FY2020-2021 cycle.

Timeline

All approved LOIs received by December 2 will be eligible for consideration for supplemental funding. Using the approved LOIs, the NSGO will calculate the overall network investment in aquaculture to determine the proportion of the supplemental funding for each program can be calculated.

The NSGO anticipates being able to inform each program of their allocation from this supplement by 16 December 2019. The requirements for this supplemental proposal are similar to the omnibus. Details on developing and submitting proposals will be provided to programs this fall. By February 2020, each program receiving supplemental funding will be required to submit a proposal detailing how they propose to invest their portion of the funds on aquaculture activities. Those projects are at the discretion of the program, but must be approved by the NSGO aquaculture managers with concurrence from the program's Program Officer as with other LOIs.

General Guidance and NSGO Priorities for Aquaculture Supplemental Funds

Funds may be directed to a range of possible activities including, for example, one or more aquaculture proposals from the most recent RFP cycle that were highly rated but not funded; aquaculture extension, education or communication activities; a joint regional aquaculture research competition; a joint regional (or topical) aquaculture extension position; competitive exploratory aquaculture Program Development funds; etc. It is a priority for the NSGO that these funds be committed to new activities that can be implemented in FY2020-2021. These funds are not intended to replace other support for staff so that those funds might be used for non-aquaculture activities. The funds may, though, be used to support existing staff to expand their aquaculture activities.